

Pastor's Corner

Honey and God's Word

March 18, 2009

Dear Friend,

I love honey. Some of the best honey I've ever tried was when I was in Romania. My friend Ludo even brought me some honey as a special gift when he visited me from Romania; I still have it and use it very sparingly! Did you know that honey has been used in the past in the place of money, and people would buy and sell using honey? Wouldn't that be a funny sign on a car: ***For Sale, only 98 pounds of honey.*** Here are a few interesting facts about honey: Bees must visit approximately 2 million flowers and they fly over 55,000 miles in order to make just one pound of honey. On an average, a worker bee will make only $\frac{1}{12}$ teaspoon of honey in her lifetime.



Now, let's change gears here for a moment. When I moved to California about 15 years ago, I started sneezing and had a pretty bad sore throat. I was sure I was sick, but soon came to the conclusion that I had some seasonal allergies. Every spring they hit; scratchy throat, scratchy eyes; it's just miserable! A few weeks ago my dear wife decided to try something. She bought me some local honey from a local beekeeper. It's not from honey made in Tennessee or Chile, it's from hives right here on the Peninsula. And you know what? My allergies have been gone for 4 weeks now. Apparently this honey, since it comes from local pollen, is able to help my allergies like no other honey can do.

It makes me think of reading books. We read to inform ourselves, to get wisdom, and to become educated. Reading is a great way to relax, and it's a great way to visit and experience distant places and meet new people. All in the pages of a book. Reading is good stuff, like honey. But there's only one Book that will help us like no other book can do. Yes, it has words on paper that give us wisdom and there's history and we can meet the people who lived long ago through its pages. But there's something different about this Book: it actually fights sin in our lives, just like my local honey gives me special overcoming antibodies for my allergens.

Let me share with you a few verses and you'll notice how the Bible talks about this:

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. *Psalms 19:7-11*

How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from Your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. *Psalms 119:103-105*

And He said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the house of Israel." So I opened my mouth, and He gave me the scroll to eat. Then He said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth. *Ezekiel 3:1-3*

When Your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight. *Jeremiah 15:16*

I have not departed from the commands of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily bread. *Job 23:12*

God's Word has power just for you. Even though there are many books, many good books, the Bible gives you something that none of the others can provide. Just like the local honey is unique in that it provides something for my body that no other honey provides, so God's word contains the power that you need just for today.

Spend time reading it! We're praying for you!

Mark